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REVIEWS OF RECENT LITERATURE.

ZOÖLOGY.

Reptilian Affinities of Primitive Mammals. — Sixta[1] has investigated the osteology of the foot in monotremes with the view of ascertaining the affinities of this primitive group of mammals. The monotremes possess a humerus with an epicondyloid foramen like that in reptiles, especially in the fossil Dimetrodon. Their radius, ulna, and carpal elements are arranged on the primitive reptilian plan, and yet their front feet are not unlike those of some marsupials (Dasyurus). In the hind foot the astragalus and calcaneum resemble those of reptiles, and the foot, on the whole, is oriented as in that group. The tarsals are as numerous as in the marsupials, but their forms and positions are typically monotrematic. The structure of the hind foot indicates an intermediate position for the monotremes between reptiles and marsupials. This opinion is further supported by a large body of evidence drawn from other organs, such as the heart and chief blood vessels (Hochstetter), the brain (Ziehen, Smith), the copulatory organs (Gadow), the embryonic membranes (Semon), the teeth (Poulton, Cope, Osborn), and skull.

P.

Anatomical Miscellanies. — The three numbers of the *Hopkins Hospital Bulletin*[2] for April, May, and June are combined into a single part and devoted to a collection of some twenty-three essays, mostly anatomical. The series opens with Barker's address on the Study of Anatomy, delivered at the Rush Medical College in October, 1900. Bardeen describes a new carbon-dioxide freezing microtome, Born's wax-plate reconstruction method as used in the Anatomical Laboratory at Hopkins, and calls attention to the importance of ordinary dissection-room material in scientific study. The cold-storage method of preserving bodies for dissection is dwelt upon by Kerr. Harrison discusses the occurrence of tails in man, and reports on an interesting case brought to his notice by Dr. Watson. Brush contributes notes on cervical ribs, and Walker gives an account of cases of hereditary anchyloses of phalangeal joints. The development of the pig's intestine is described by MacCallum, and the structure of the gall-bladder by Sudler; of a less anatomical character are Halsted's report on the effects of injecting bile into the pancreas, and Opie's account of the etiology of acute hemorrhagic pancreatitis. The axillary artery and its variations are described by Hitzrot, the blood vessels of the lymphatic glands by Calvert, and the anatomical origin of the lymphatics in the liver by Mall, who also contributes a note on the basement membranes of the kidney tubules. Lewis gives an account of the pectoralis major muscle in man. The development of the human diaphragm is fully described by Mall. Neurology is represented by Mellus's article on the bilateral relations of the cerebral cortex, Long's paper on the development of the nuclei of the pons, and Fowler's description of a model of the dentate nucleus of the cerebellum. The development of the generative tracts in white ants is described by Knower, and the modification of normal menstruation by Mosher. The series gives substantial evidence of the great quantity and high quality of advanced work done in the Hopkins Hospital. P.

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[1] Sixta, V. Vergleichend-osteologische Untersuchung über den Bau der Füsse der Reptilien, Monotremen, und Marsupialier, *Zool. Anzeiger*, Bd. xxiv (1901), pp. 321–332.

[2] *Bulletin of the Johns Hopkins Hospital*, vol. xii, Nos. 121–122, 123, April–May–June, 1901.

The Position of the Centrosome in Resting Cells. — By a thorough study of the segmenting eggs in Ascaris, zur Strassen[1] has shown that at each resting stage the centrosome takes up a position between the nucleus and the center of the exposed surface of the blastomere, *i.e.*, lies in the axis of the cell near its distal pole. This position is always attained, even though it involves a considerable migration on the part of the centrosome. As similar conditions have been figured by other authors in the segmenting eggs of several animals, and as the centrosome in ordinary epithelium regularly occurs in this position, zur Strassen believes that the rule discovered by him for Ascaris may prove to be of general application for all kinds of epithelial tissue, including the blastoderms of eggs. These observations favor the view that epithelial cells possess a true polarity, but this polarity is not one which has arisen first in adult epithelia. As is shown by its occurrence in the early segmentation stages, it is a polarity that is fairly comparable with that

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[1] Zur Strassen, O. Ueber die Lage der Centrosomen in ruhenden Zellen, *Archiv für Entwickelungsmechanik der Organismen*, Bd. xii (1901), pp. 134–161.